

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

A method of estimating traffic values or intervals in a communications network, the network comprising a plurality of nodes being interconnected by links, the method comprising the steps of; (a) obtaining traffic data through ~~said~~ the nodes and/or links as input data; (b) obtaining network data relating to the network topology and network behaviour; and (c) estimating the effect of a modification of ~~said~~ the communications network and/or its behaviour by calculating traffic information between a selected first and a selected second node of ~~said~~ the network using ~~said~~ the input data.